

As our thoughts and prayers remain with our brave men and women serving around the world and their families, we must continue



to care for and honor the veterans who fought for our freedom and security. In Congress, I am always mindful of the obligation to provide our veterans with quality healthcare, economic opportunities, and retirement security. They deserve no less. – Rush Holt

Keeping faith with those who have served in our Armed Forces is a sacred national trust. Rep. Holt believes that America has a moral obligation to ensure that veterans receive the health care, disability compensation, readjustment counseling, and job training and placement services that they have earned through their service to our nation. In 2007, Rep. Holt was honored to vote for the largest single increase in the 77-year history of the Veterans Administration.

If you need Rep. Holt's assistance cutting through tape on a veterans issue, please click [here](#) .

In this section:

- [VA Funding](#)
- [21st Century GI Bill](#)
- [Veterans Employment](#)
- [Ending Disabled Veterans Tax](#)

VA Funding

In 2007, Rep. Holt voted to increase the budget for veterans' health care by \$6.7 billion for Fiscal Year 2008, an increase of 7.2 percent over President Bush's request. This was the largest single increase in the 77-year history of the VA. Holt believes it is essential for the federal government to create a guaranteed funding stream for veterans' health care, adjusted for inflation and population growth, so that veterans and current members of our Armed Forces can be assured that their benefits will not expire. The VA urgently needs a predictable, reliable funding stream so that medical staff can be hired and retained, critical supplies and services reach the veterans who need them. That is why Holt has co-sponsored the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 (H.R. 1016), which would provide a two-year discretionary budget authority for the VA. It is the only way to ensure that the VA has the resources it needs to care for America's veterans.

21st Century GI Bill

In 2008, Rep. Holt helped Congress pass a GI Bill for the 21st Century. The original GI bill of 1944 launched millions of families on a course to achieving the American dream – and set the American economy on the right course after a draining war. However, over time the GI Bill educational benefits diminished and paid only about 70 percent of a public college education and 30 percent of a private college education.

Under the updated GI Bill, those who have served on active-duty for three years or more would qualify for a full educational benefit including the costs of a four-year education at the level of the most expensive in-state public school. Those who have served between three months and three years of active duty would qualify for a proportion of that full benefit.

eGenda: [A 21st Century GI Bill](#) (5-23-08)

Veterans Employment

Rep. Holt has championed legislative efforts to help unemployed veterans and soldiers returning from active duty find jobs. He has reintroduced a resolution to encourage U.S. employers to hire veterans and to designate the week that includes Veterans Day as “Hire a Veteran Week.”

Additionally, Holt has proposed the creation of the American Veterans Congressional Internship Program, a bill designed to help veterans get exposure to the legislative branch of government and increase their opportunities for future careers in government service. Veterans who have completed their military service deserve an opportunity to help influence public policy decisions so that those who follow them into military service benefit from their wisdom and experience.

Ending the Disabled Veterans Tax

While some progress has been made in changing the law so that military retirees who receive retired pay can also receive disability pay, there is more work to do. To ensure that military retirees receive 100% of both their retired pay and disability pay, Rep. Holt has co-sponsored the Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act (H.R. 333), which would permit veterans with a service-connected disability of less than 50 percent to claim both retired pay and disability compensation.

Congressional Research Service Reports of Interest

[Disability Evaluation of Military Servicemembers Questions and Answers](#) (1-27-09) [Military Medical Care:](#)
(1-27-09)

[Health Care for Dependents and Survivors of Veterans](#)
(6-3-08)

[Veterans Affairs: Benefits for Service-Connected Disabilities](#) (12-12-08)

[Veterans' Benefits: Benefits Available for Disabled Veterans](#)
(1-27-09)

[Veterans Affairs: Health Care and Benefits for Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange](#)
(8-25-08)

Other Useful Links

[House Veterans Affairs Committee webpage](#) [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) [Links to Veteran Service Organizations](#)